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in Persia. The grandeur of her ancient monuments and the beauty and decorative design of much of her later work are made to live again for us. Her contributions to comparative philology, history and religion, through the discovery of the Zoroastrian scriptures and the deciphering of the cuneiform inscriptions are all reviewed, and the study of the Pahlavi or Mid-Persian texts, inscriptions, coins and gems, and their results for general historic and linguistic science are touched upon. The recognized title of Persian literature to a place among the great literatures of the world is made clear as also the influence of Persia upon England and the other European languages. The author is also alive to possibilities for American commerce.

We finish the book with a feeling of regret that the author's promised book on his Turkestan experiences cannot immediately be opened.

DORA KEEN

Philadelphia.

Meakin, Annette M. B. *Russia: Travels and Studies.* Pp. xx, 450. Price, \$4.00. London: Hurst and Blackett. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1906.

Of the many books which have appeared lately on Russian subjects, the majority deal either exclusively or particularly with political questions. This book is of an entirely different character. It is of no less interest, however, than these other works—and it should be greatly appreciated by those readers who wish to learn something of a country which is passing through a most serious economic and political crisis.

The title—Travels and Studies—explains exactly what we are to find in Miss Meakin's book. The book is in the first place the compilation of notes made by one who has traveled, not a single time, but several times, through all the important cities and districts of Russia. The writer knew the language of the country—and in traveling she talks with the official, the priest or the peasant—and she studies not only the past history of each place, but also its present condition and importance.

The reader is taken through all the important cities of Russia, cities typical of the many different geographical and ethnical elements which go to make up the great empire. The author gives in the most acceptable manner the interesting story of each place as she visits its historic monuments. The important part played by each in the development of a great nation is pointed out. These facts of history, so instructive to one who wishes to understand the present problems of Russia, are thus given in a form much more accessible to the ordinary reader than they would be in a mere chronological account.

Kieff, Russia's first capital, where Christianity was accepted by the Russians and the old idols thrown into the river—Moscow, still the commercial capital—Novgorod, the only city republic—St. Petersburg, the window looking toward the west which Peter the Great built in with such difficulty—these are not the only places studied. One is taken deeper, into small provincial cities with their peculiar customs, and into peasant villages. Miss Meakin has spent much time in the peasant villages and homes. The land question is

touched upon sufficiently to show the reader the nature of this problem which, more than any other, confronts the Russian legislators to-day. The race problem of Russia is mentioned. The traits and occupations of the Germans, the Estho, the various Caucasian races are discussed as the author meets these nationalities in her travels. At Kishineff the Jews tell of the massacres. The Finns and their importance in the development of the Russian type are studied—the Little Russian is differentiated from the Great Russian, the branch usually referred to when the word Russian is used. All these races are discussed in their relation to each other.

Crimea, the beautiful riviera of Russia, is described as the Crimean war is recalled to our memory. The picturesque Caucasus, its mountain passes, its maze of races are seen and studied. Tolstoy is visited—"the great writer of the Russian soil" is found still engrossed in his great literary work, too indifferent perhaps to all the recent events of national interest.

When almost every book appearing on Russian subjects is devoted to the discussion of race conflicts, to the description of revolutionary agitation and of reactionary methods of government, Miss Meakin must have hesitated before giving us a book which only touches on these topics and gives most attention to the description of cities and villages, of the manners and customs of their inhabitants. But this book is a valuable contribution to the too small list of good books on Russia, because it contains so many first-hand observations, put in such a clear and attractive form. It should appeal to those who have the curiosity to glance into that Russia which still remains so imperfectly known to western readers.

SAMUEL N. HARPER.

University of Chicago.

Sparling, S. E. *Introduction to Business Organization.* Pp. xviii, 374.
Price, \$1.25. New York: Macmillan Co., 1906.

Professor Sparling's work is one of the latest volumes in the well-known and valuable *Citizen's Library of Economics, Politics and Sociology*. The subject is one of most vital importance, and the treatment is such that the book must prove of much interest. Its value is greater by virtue of the fact that it is really the only single volume on the subject of modern business organization.

Space does not permit us to make a detailed criticism of the work. We can give only its general outlines, and a general appreciation of it as a whole.

Professor Sparling gives us, in his introductory part, chapters on the general considerations of business organization, the elements of organization, and the legal aspects of organization. It is here that he clears the general field, and he does it with considerable success, though there seems to us to be a lack of enthusiasm and vigor. In his second part, that on the principles of organization, we have chapters on the business aspects of farming, factory organization, commercial organization, factory cost-keeping, evolution of the market, exchanges, direct selling, wholesaling and retailing, traveling salesmanship and the mail-order business, advertising, credits and collections. In each